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# ‘Enough is enough’

High schoolers lead local march to call for end to gun violence



PHOTOS BY: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

High school students participate in Oxford's March for Our Lives on Saturday. Multiple demonstrations were held across America.



High school students participate in Oxford's March for Our Lives on Saturday. The march was intended to bring awareness to school shootings and decrease gun violence.

**KIMBERLY RUSSELL**  
ONLINE EDITOR

“Not one more” was the cry of Oxford High School teenagers as they led a crowd marching around the Square on Saturday morning. The March for Our Lives Oxford event was a part of a national rally to end gun violence. The movement follows a recent increase in the nation of both mass shootings and gun violence in schools, including the shooting last month at a high school in Parkland, Florida killing 17 people.

The march was likely the largest single-day protest in Washington, D.C.’s history, though official numbers are still coming in, according to USA Today. That doesn’t account for the hundreds of other protests in cities like Oxford and globally. Hundreds of parents, residents, Ole Miss alumni and students flooded the Square Saturday morning to show their support of both the Oxford march and the high schoolers who made it happen.

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## Group organizes Mental Health Week

**LASHERICA THORNTON**  
STAFF WRITER

Senior psychology major Kathryn Forbes overcame anxiety and depression in high school and said she never thought she would have to deal with them again. But after coming to Ole Miss and taking harder classes, Forbes said that wasn’t the case. By the end of her freshman year, Forbes began experiencing feelings of depression and anxiety that snowballed out of control until she was hospitalized for severe depression during her sophomore year. She struggled with her conditions and having to stay home from school her spring semester, but eventually realized the importance of taking the time to address her mental health. In the coming days, Forbes and others will share their stories during the second annual Active Minds of Ole Miss’ Mental Health Week. Forbes and Tyler Rice, who co-founded the chapter together, and the rest of the Active Minds members are hoping to create conversation and generate awareness on campus this week with multiple events Monday through Thursday.

Anxiety and depression are only two of the many mental illnesses college students often endure. The American College Health Association reports that more than 80 percent of college students felt overwhelmed by all they had to do in the past year and 45 percent have felt things were hopeless. Active Minds will host Send Silence Packing on Monday in the Grove from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Forbes said the event will be a powerful display of empty backpacks laid out across the Grove to represent the number of students lost to suicide. “One thousand and one

## UM hosts 8th Big Event, largest in history

**RACHEL ISHEE**  
NEWS EDITOR

More than 2,000 students filed into The Pavilion early Saturday morning to participate in the largest community service project in Ole Miss history, the eighth annual Big Event. Mary Morgan Coburn and Savannah Smith, this year’s co-directors, welcomed students and thanked them for volunteering. “Our mission is simple: to show our gratitude to our community,” Coburn said. “It’s supposed to just be a fun day of service.” Smith, who has participated in Big Event each year of her



PHOTO BY: ARIEL COBBERT

Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs Brandi Hephner Labanc (right) tills dirt with students outside a Lafayette County Fire Station. The Big Event, Ole Miss’ largest community service project, allows students to come together to benefit the Lafayette-Oxford community.

college career, said that similarly to what she has seen in the past, Ole Miss students go above and beyond to give back. “I think that the high number of volunteers who registered to serve on the day of really says a lot about how students in the Ole Miss community really want to give back and serve others,” Smith said. Smith said she was happy with the way this year’s 250 registered projects turned out. “This year honestly ran very smoothly,” Smith said. “We had a record number of projects in the community this year, and I think that it was a great success.”

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COLUMN

Short class breaks create unnecessary stress



JONATHAN LOVELADY  
STAFF COLUMNIST

You are in class, the clock is pushing toward the 50-minute mark and you need to ask the professor a question, but there’s one problem – you have a class right after. So you’re forced to put off the question, jump out the door and walk briskly to your next course. Most standard college courses have to meet 150 minutes a week, and this article is not questioning

that policy, because it’s standard for semesters in general and should not change. Rather, this is asking for a change to the amount of time between those courses. Ten minutes between classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays is just not enough to make it to the classroom without being on the brink of exhaustion or being required to have some form of superpower to carry yourself up to the stairs at a rapid pace or teleport the elevator. This is not necessarily a dire complaint or something that dramatically needs to be changed. Rather, it’s an attempt to take a step back and realize what people have to go through on a daily basis to get things done. For example, to walk from the north side of the Grove to Bondurant probably takes

nearly 12-15 minutes for me. So, yes, you could try to schedule your courses so they’re not back to back, but that is not the point. Sometimes you have no choice or that is the only time a certain course is offered. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, those 15 minutes between class meetings come in handy, and an extra five minutes can, surprisingly, do a lot for your life. Though changing the schedule might bring extra stress to those who must plan and implement this idea, I am asking for a poll of students or a public forum to address such complaints. With a growing campus and people moving at break-neck speed, having one class end at 8:50 a.m. and the next one start at 9:05 a.m. would be remarkable. Such

a systematic change would allow our community to slow down and take a breath or make an important phone call that just might be needed in our complex lives. I wrote this piece because the complaints about scheduling are always brief, but over time, they add up and make me think that it would be a great idea to at least consider a change. As our university continues to grow, 10 minutes just won’t be enough to get somewhere without disturbing a class by entering late or leaving early. I do not have the answer, but all of us could come up with one together, and, honestly, that is what matters the most.

Jonathan Lovelady is a junior economics major from Los Angeles.

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# MARCH

continued from page 1

Anna Claire Franklin and Livvy Cohen are both 16-year-old juniors at Oxford High School. Franklin is on the debate team and likes to spend time with her friends. Cohen spends all her extra time working as editor-in-chief for her school's newspaper.

But the girls said gun violence has stripped them of their childhood.

"We have to fight to prevent a completely preventable tragedy," Franklin said. "And it's ludicrous that we have to. So we're not children anymore. We're warriors."

After the Parkland shooting, the girls said they spent time figuring out where they would hide to survive an active shooter attack.

"I remember sitting in the hallway with my lunch group formulating a plan for if an active shooter enters the school, which I shouldn't have to be doing," Franklin said.

She and Cohen both decided it was on them to do something about this issue locally. They got in touch with Moms Demand Action in Oxford, and the timing of the national March for Our Lives lined up well with the girls' desire for action.

"March for Our Lives happened, and we realized that

this is what we needed to be doing for our community," Franklin said.

The girls said they were inspired by fellow high schoolers Emma Gonzalez and David Hogg, survivors of the Parkland shooting who have recently garnered national attention after speaking out against gun violence around the country.

be better-equipped to speak on mass shootings and gun violence.

One of those experts was psychiatrist Tim Kelly.

"I learned that 98 percent of school shooters are white males age 18 to 25 and typically (have) a thought disorder," Thomason said. "This is important because we can help these people."

Junior Edith Marie Green traveled to Oxford from the Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science in Columbus. Green moved many audience members to tears as she painted a picture of her future as a history teacher.

"Hopefully, something changes so that when I'm a history teacher in the future, I can tell my students

Jones said. "This was all them. We just stood back and watched in awe."

But Smith, the mother to a 13-year-old daughter, said she's embarrassed this burden has fallen no the children.

"We've let them down, and we should be ashamed of ourselves," Smith said. "But I'm very proud of them ... for really understanding that there is something beyond today."

Jones said she is proud of these students, particularly for the example they're setting for her 3-year-old daughter.

"I want her to know what a big difference kids can make, and anyone can make, if they put their minds to it," Jones said. "We have a big book of superheroes, and we've been talking about heroes (Anna Claire Franklin and Livvy Cohen) because she she needs to know what a big difference people can make."

Franklin and Cohen said they hope that people will be able to see past partisan issues and unite to bring safety to schools.

"We're all affected by gun violence, and I hope that with movements like this, people start to realize that it's an everybody issue," Cohen said. "Everybody has to do something to make any sort of change."

‘So we’re not children anymore. We’re warriors.’

- Anna Claire Franklin, high school organizer

"After these students started creating such a voice for everyone, I felt really inclined to actually know what I was talking about rather than just fight for a change but not actually know what I was fighting for," Cohen said. "These are 100 percent my opinions."

Ask the girls what they want changed, and they'll rattle off a list that starts with open dialogues and gun-sense legislation.

For Oxford High School junior Cooper Thomason, mental health was the main focus of his speech. Thomason said he'd turned to local experts for information before giving his speech so he'd

The complicated issue of mental health is a pillar of the gun debate. Thomason argued the current gun purchasing system doesn't do much to keep firearms out of reach of those with mental illnesses.

"This is why Dr. Kelly also suggests the idea of putting these people in a database," Thomason said. "What this does is it prevents people who might not be in the best situation of getting guns immediately after. And considering that the majority of school shooters all have these disorders, it's frankly ridiculous that this has not already been implemented."

that regular mass shootings are a thing of my childhood and not of theirs," Green said. "Hopefully, when I'm a teacher in the future, I don't have to worry about standing in front of bullets for my students."

The moms behind the march helped to give their own daughters hope, too.

Erica Jones and Stacey Smith of Moms Demand Action Oxford helped the high schoolers organize the march but say their involvement was minimal. They were the ones to obtain a permit and work with the city, but the rest was up to the students.

"They are not our puppets,"



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## BIG EVENT

*continued from page 1*

Oxford native and Big Event group leader Carson Luke said she decided to participate in the Big Event because of how much the community means to her.

“It’s where my younger sister and cousins are growing up, and I want to do anything I can to keep it a beautiful place for them and the people that live here,” Luke said.

She said she enjoys seeing the community come together to give back to her hometown.

“Sometimes it’s difficult to see the university and Oxford as one, and this meshes the two populations and lets the people of Oxford know that the students really do care about the community and want to be an active part,” Luke said.

Chancellor Jeffrey Vitter said he was excited to be a part of the annual day of service and thanked the students for giving up their time to give back to a community that has given so much to them.



PHOTO BY: ARIEL COBBERT

A student tills dirt at the Oxford Community Garden on Saturday during the Big Event. Volunteers were spread out at an estimated 250 projects.

“As Ole Miss Rebels, service and community engagements are key values to our institution because the impact that we make touches not only our community but really our nation collectively, and with these opportunities we have a responsibility to reach out and make a difference in our world,” Vitter said.

Mayor Robyn Tannehill said she was thankful to live in a

community that had so many students who were willing and eager to give back.

“Students are such a vital part of the Oxford community, and it’s so important to leave things better than you found it, and that is what you’re doing today,” Tannehill said.

Head football coach Matt Luke was also in attendance to thank the students for their time and to remind them of the importance of giving back to their community.

“Part of what makes Ole Miss special is Oxford, and part of what makes Oxford special is Ole Miss,” Luke said. “It really is a community, and we are a family.”

Ole Miss’ Big Event is the largest day of volunteer service in the state of Mississippi.

## ACTIVE MINDS

*continued from page 1*

hundred students die by suicide every year across the country, and so they bring in 1,100 backpacks,” Forbes said. “A few hundred of the backpacks are those backpacks of those students that the family has donated with their stories on them.”

During the event, there will also be signs with encouraging statements on display and tables set up with resources like the counseling center. The center will be there to discuss its services and offer assistance to anyone if the display affects them emotionally.

Organizers said the display will be important for the community to see how prominent suicide is on college campuses, especially since Ole Miss has been impacted by several suicides recently.

“Reading their story personalizes the issue for people, to change the conversation and to change the stigma surrounding mental health,” Forbes said.

Active Minds is teaming with Phi Delta Theta fraternity for a 3-day fundraiser, known as Ball for Life: A Thousand Threes in Three Days. University Sporting Goods will donate \$1 up to \$1,000 for every 3-point shot made.

People can stop by the Active Minds table on Business Row, pay \$3 and attempt to make as

many 3-point shots as they can in one minute. The individual who makes the most threes over the three-day period will win a prize.

Michael Ziblich, a father who lost his son to suicide in 2012, will speak at 7 p.m. Monday at Bondurant 204C. Ziblich speaks to college campuses around the country.

“He’s really good at speaking toward the young men who are sometimes difficult to reach on campuses, and so we’re excited for him to reach that audience,” Forbes said.

Blake McClure, Mental Health Week co-chair, said there is still work to do when it comes to getting men to discuss their feelings, even though Active Minds has worked to make it easier to do so.

“I think it’s kind of popularized for men to be strong upfront and not to be emotional and talk about their emotions,” McClure said. “I think it’s been a lot easier for me, especially nowadays, to talk about what’s going on in my life and how my emotions affect me. But I think for men, in general, it’s a little easier, but it’s still a lot of work to do.”

Active Minds will also hold a Humans of Ole Miss exhibit from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday in Bondurant 204C. The Active Minds executive board asked faculty, staff, students and alumni to submit stories, whether anonymous or not.

The come-and-go exhibit will feature photos of almost all of the individuals who chose to share their stories, and Active Minds will be released Tuesday to start a social media campaign.

“This whole process has taught us that people are so willing to talk about mental health,” Forbes said. “They just kind of have to be provoked at first. Once you ask them the questions, they’ll openly answer.”

Although Forbes, Rice and McClure are open about their mental health, they realize everyone else may not be at that comfort level of sharing yet.

“I want people that don’t struggle with mental health issues to know that other people around them are struggling with it, and that they may not be open about it and to make sure they are okay,” McClure said.

An Active Minds table will be set up on Business Row every day of Mental Health Week from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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# Miss-I-Sippin'

Annual festival allowed beer experts and novices alike a chance to celebrate their favorite beverage



PHOTOS BY: SARAH LIESE



The annual Miss-I-Sippin' festival celebrated its ninth year of sharing craft brews and beer-centered competitions with the Oxford community this weekend. The Yoknapatawpha Arts Council once again organized the event, which featured a scavenger hunt in the form of a pub crawl, wing-eating contest and a craft beer festival. Beer lovers from across the state attended Miss-I-Sippin' events all weekend, getting to know new brews from the Southeast and many crafted locally in north Mississippi.

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**Pick winner of Friday, March 30 game \***  
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**3**  
 Winner will be contacted Tues., April 3  
 Hurry! Contest closes Thursday, March 29 at 4pm



# Dance concert features intimacy, genuine emotion

MARY LIZ KING

ASSISTANT LIFESTYLES EDITOR

Before taking the stage, Mississippi: The Dance Company warmed up with a series of energetic exercises and stretches to get ready for the evening’s performance. Nervous laughter bounced off the walls, and an electric energy filled the auditorium.

Over the weekend, the dance company performed its concert titled “Crossing Borders.” Mississippi: The Dance Company is a resident modern dance company that began at Ole Miss in 1983. Its primary focus is modern dance, but its performances often include several other forms of dance, as well.

This year’s theme drew inspiration from Ole Miss’ newfound relationship with the Malpaso Cuban Dance Company.

Jennifer Mizenko, the director of Mississippi: The Dance Company since 1989, said the

“Crossing Borders” theme is identifiable from many different angles.

“I think ‘Crossing Borders’ can mean a lot of different things. Obviously, it has to do with the literal idea that we went to Cuba,” she said. “But besides that, each piece has some sort of metaphorical idea of crossing the borders of a challenge.”

The eight pieces, each beautifully unique, paint a cohesive masterpiece of human connection, struggle, joy and redefinition of societal norms.

Several pieces stuck out for their eccentric choreography and athleticism. The first was the second number of the show, titled “To be/right here, right now/with you,” choreographed by senior Victoria Burrow.

The piece highlighted the nature of human connection. The dancers’ bodies twisted among each other in a somber yet compelling number that



PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

Mississippi: The Dance Company performs “Crossing Borders” during a dress rehearsal in Meek Auditorium on Wednesday.

conveyed the beauty of intimacy and raw emotion of the human experience.

“It’s about relationships with people that you create and how you can connect with people on a really personal level,” Burrow said. “It’s really about personal connection.”

Burrow, who has been dancing with the company since her freshman year, said she loves the opportunity the group gives to student choreographers to express their inner creativity through dance.

“The fact that we are able to create pieces for the show is something that is unique to this company,” she said. “It gives us an outlet to create pieces, which is really cool.”

Another student-choreo-

graphed piece, titled “Ease My Mind,” by senior Courtney Borserine, focused on how dance can empower women to be fierce and strong. The number featured intense red and white lights flashing all around the dancers as they demonstrated the piece’s strength and athleticism. The costumes were all black and simple, giving off an edgy vibe that echoed the piece’s theme.

Mizenko’s piece in the show, “Restricted,” is rooted in being held back by something and overcoming that adversity. The number began with a serious tone, then twisted into a humorous 1970s-esque piece with elaborate costumes and lighting.

The inspiration for the

dance came from one of Mizenko’s own struggles with being restricted.

“I had major surgery on my ankle, and it’s really restricting how I move in terms of dance,” she said. “The piece is literally about feeling restricted and how to overcome that.”

The final piece of the show, “Definiendo a Carmen” by Osnel Delgado, artistic director of Malpaso Dance Company, was a product of the company’s study abroad experience and the residency by Malpaso Dance Company at Ole Miss. Delgado found inspiration in “Carmen,” a famous opera by Georges Bizet, and he created his own arrangement of the piece.

“He manipulated the piece and created something that seeks to understand what is the new Carmen. Who is she and what is she like?” Mizenko said.

After watching the show, Max Doolittle, a faculty member at the university, said the performance was a diverse, entertaining concert filled with exciting moments.

“I came in knowing nothing about the show, but I enjoyed having the full spectrum of dance. There was a little bit of everything,” he said.

The simple costumes and exquisite lighting accompanied each number in a way that enhanced the experience of each well-choreographed piece. Mizenko said the concert was meant to communicate with and impact the audience.

“Dance is the very first form of communication. Before we could speak, write or sing, all we could do was move, and that is how we communicate,” Mizenko said. “When we see dance live, there’s a visceral response that no other art form can touch if we allow ourselves to be open to it. You can’t explain it, but it just hits you.”

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34235

ACROSS

1 Clear the board

6 Blackbird

10 Thom of footwear

14 Broaden

15 \_\_\_ fixe

16 Car

17 Actress Verdugo

18 Italian resort

19 Smooth tongued

20 Now you \_\_\_ ...

21 Precise

23 Not 'neath

25 Climbing vine

26 Former Russian ruler

29 Girder type

32 Atty.-to-be exams

37 Startled cries

38 Spring

39 Keeper, in football

40 In spite of

43 Attic

44 Morays

45 New Zealand parrot

46 Remains

47 "The Thin Man" dog

48 Actual

49 Overtime cause

51 U-turn from NNW

53 The day following today

58 Halved

62 Sand hill

63 "Othello" villain

64 1986 Indy 500 winner Bobby

65 007's alma mater

66 WWII battle site

67 Practice piece

68 Yours and mine

69 Back part of the foot

70 Gymnast Comaneci

DOWN

1 More than one female sheep

2 Make angry

3 Zip-\_\_\_-Doo-Dah

4 Elder

5 Maternally related

6 Temperate

7 "What I Am" singer Brickell

8 Abies magnifica

9 Ninth-century pope

10 Biblical trio

11 Sect

12 Play to \_\_\_ (draw)

13 San Francisco's \_\_\_ Hill

22 Hose

24 Role for Clark

26 Forceps

27 Weaned pig

28 Latin stars

30 Phooey!

31 Church recesses

33 Blue

34 Similar

35 Fungal infection

36 George of "Just Shoot Me"

38 Deceives

39 Festive occasions

41 Twisted

42 Lunar New Year

47 Add fizz

48 Soprano Scotto

50 Whiskey type

52 Seductively beautiful woman

53 Ballet skirt

54 \_\_\_ about (roughly)

55 Department store department

56 Eyeball

57 Fleece

59 Dull sound

60 Dry watercourse

61 Olive genus

62 \_\_\_ volente (God willing)

SOLUTION TO 3.23.2018 PUZZLE

A	G	A	M	A	S	T	E	E	R	H	A	G
L	O	G	I	C	A	D	R	E	A	R	E	
M	E	R	I	T	O	R	I	O	U	S	I	D
A	S	A	U	T	E	S	P	E	W	T	E	R
S	A	L	T	L	A	K	E	C	I	T	Y	
A	F	O	U	L	N	O	V	S	A	K	S	
J	A	N	Y	E	A	R	N	E	D	L	I	E
D	R	E	D	L	I	N	G	O	O	I	L	E
A	C	A	D	I	A	N	L	O	G	E		
T	I	N	E	A	R	B	A	T	H	F	B	I
A	V	A	I	G	N	O	M	I	N	I	O	U
L	E	I	S	E	E	N	O	U	N	C	L	E
L	T	S	E	D	G	E	R	T	O	I	L	E

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## SUDOKU®

Puzzles by KrazyDad

4				6			9	8
	1			8	9			4
	2	9						3
	8			5	6		7	
7								6
	9		4	7			2	
5						1	4	
2			5	9			3	
9	4			3				2

### HOW TO PLAY

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 with no repeats.

### DIFFICULTY LEVEL

### NOVICE

2	9	5	1	3	8	7	4	6
7	3	8	4	6	5	1	9	2
6	4	1	7	2	9	8	3	5
5	2	3	8	7	4	9	6	1
6	8	9	2	1	3	4	5	7
1	7	4	6	5	9	2	8	3
3	1	9	5	4	7	6	2	8
4	5	7	6	8	2	3	1	9
8	9	2	3	6	1	5	7	4



# Rebel baseball takes 2 out of 3 against Aggies

**GRAYSON WEIR**  
SPORTS EDITOR

At the end of a series defined by back-and-forth offensive explosions, No. 5 Ole Miss baseball defeated No. 12 Texas A&M 7-6 on Saturday to take the three-game road series 2-1 and improve to 22-3 on the season.

Entering the early-week-end series, Ole Miss skeptics pointed to a lack of strong early-season opponents and questioned the team's ability to step up against other top SEC teams. That doubt was quickly silenced Thursday, when the Rebels took a tense Game 1 pitchers' duel in comeback fashion.

Through the first seven innings, A&M's Stephen Kolek was dominant and struck out 10 Rebel batters. Although he allowed only four hits, he conceded two runs on a third-inning Will Golsan home run. Meanwhile, Ole Miss' Ryan Rolison gave up four runs in only four innings of work, and the Rebels found themselves down 4-2 entering the eighth.

In Kolek's relief, Nolan Hoffman took the mound for A&M, and Ole Miss' bats went to work. After starting the inning with back-to-back singles by Grae Kessinger and Ryan Olenek, Fortes knocked Kessinger home on a chopper up the third base line and brought Thomas Dillard to the plate.

Extending his 12-game hitting streak, Dillard singled to left field, scored Olenek and tied the game. But when the ball got away from the Aggies' left fielder, Fortes turned for home and scored the eventual game-winning run.

To close out the 5-4 Rebel victory, redshirt sophomore reliever Parker Caracci earned his second career save and struck out five in two innings, including Texas A&M's No. 3 and 4 hitters back to back.



FILE PHOTO BY: MARLEE CRAWFORD

Thomas Dillard (6) is greeted by his teammates after hitting a home run during the 6-3 win over Tulane earlier this season.

Although the one-run win result turned in A&M's favor, Friday's game came with equal eighth-inning excitement.

Struggling to find his rhythm early, Brady Feigl allowed four runs in the second inning and gave the Aggies, who extended their lead with a run in the fifth inning and two in the seventh, control of the game. Ole Miss was able to chip off one run in the third and another in the seventh but found itself down 7-2 entering the eighth.

Beginning the inning, Fortes took a fastball to his hand and Dillard reached base by taking a pitch to the leg. After a two-out walk, pinch hitter Michael Fitzsimmons entered the box with the bases juiced and smashed a 2-1 offering off the scoreboard in left field.

The Rebels took the 7-6 deficit into the bottom half of inning, in which Greer Holston sat down the heart of the Aggies' order but

could not extend the game in the ninth and dropped their third game of 2018.

A wild Saturday in College Station closed out the series. In a game in which both teams combined for 13 runs and 27 hits, Ole Miss relied on its relief pitching to grind out the 7-6 rubber match victory.

Starting pitcher James McArthur gave up two runs on three hits and was relieved after only 1.1 innings, giving way to the dominant Ole Miss bullpen.

Although the Rebels fell behind early, they claimed the lead on a profound day at the plate that included a solo shot by Cole Zabowski in the second and a two-run dinger from Tyler Keenan in the fourth, which left them down only one. Dillard reached base on a fielding error and began a two-out rally in the fifth, which Zabowski followed up with a game-tying RBI double off the wall. On the next pitch, Golsan singled to right

field, scored Zabowski and gave Ole Miss a 5-4 lead.

A&M tied the game in the bottom half, but Ole Miss regained control in the seventh when Golsan hit his second RBI double of the

game and scored Dillard, who extended his hitting streak to 14 games. Later in the inning, a bloop single scored Golsan for what was ultimately the game's deciding run, which put the Rebels ahead 7-5.

While the offense delivered, Dallas Woolfolk came on in the fifth, pitched two dominant innings and allowed no runs or walks and three hits en route to his first win of the 2018 season. In his succession, 6-foot-5 Will Ethridge took the ball and turned in back-to-back 1-2-3 innings.

From there, it was the Caracci show once more. Tasked with facing the top of the A&M order, the Friday night star worked through four at-bats of six or more pitches and allowed one run to score but culminated the series with a full-count strikeout with the winning run at the plate.

After asserting its dominance with the weekend series win, Ole Miss sits at 22-3 on the season and returns home Tuesday to face No. 16 Southern Mississippi.

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# Parker Caracci emerges as Ole Miss' super closer

**BEN MILLER**  
STAFF WRITER

Out of the stacked Ole Miss bullpen, another star has risen. Redshirt sophomore Parker Caracci was already on a hot streak this season, but his performance in this weekend's series against Texas A&M cemented his status as a super closer for Ole Miss baseball.

After redshirting the past two seasons, Caracci has certainly been a surprise this time around. Caracci has 33 strikeouts and given up just two runs in 15.2 innings pitched this season, and his play early in this SEC season speaks for itself. Earning two wins and three saves in ten appearances, his record is an encouraging sign for what could come from the rest of his season.

The numbers he has built for himself as a bullpen pitcher are undoubtedly impressive, but there is no way to quantify his ability to keep cool in stressful late-game situations. Some call it the clutch gene. Regardless of label, Caracci has it. For proof, look no further than last Thursday's series opener against A&M.

In the bottom of the eighth inning, Caracci stepped onto the mound to take over after



FILE PHOTO BY: CHRISTIAN JOHNSON

Pitcher Parker Caracci closes out a game against Tennessee earlier this season. Ole Miss won 5-0. Caracci recorded two saves this weekend against Texas A&M.

a questionable umpiring decision left the bases loaded with only one out for Texas A&M. He faced two batters, Braden Shewmake and Logan Foster. Shewmake and Foster are the

No. 2 and No. 1 RBI hitters for the Aggies, respectively, and aren't ones to keep their bats quiet. After Caracci quickly retired Shewmake, he then lowered Logan Foster's sea-

son .487 batting average with another quick strikeout. Two more strikeouts in the ninth gave Ole Miss the 1-0 series lead.

During Saturday's series

finale, Caracci stepped in to cap off yet another Ole Miss comeback. Although he gave up a run in the process, the nerves were kept under control and No. 65 struck out the final two batters to give Ole Miss the series win.

It is worth wondering where Caracci has been in the past two seasons. After an extremely prolific career at Jackson Preparatory School in Jackson, he has spent two years sitting on the bench with a redshirt before this season. His athletic career at Jackson Prep saw him lead the baseball team to a record of 102-8 over a three-year period while also playing three years of varsity football as a wide receiver. Since then, his status as a true weapon for the Rebels has lain dormant. For head coach Mike Bianco and the Rebels, his awakening comes at an excellent time, when the entire team is heating up.

Dallas Woolfolk is still Bianco's preferred option as a closer, but Caracci is showing college baseball just how loaded Ole Miss' bullpen really is. At the very least, he's showing that he is an incredible pitcher when it matters most. Clutch can't be taught, and Parker Caracci certainly does not need any teaching.

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